

 a Little Golden Book®

WALT DISNEY'S

Sleeping Beauty



Little Golden Books

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WALT DISNEY'S
Sleeping Beauty

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Long ago, in a faraway land, King Stefan's fair queen gave birth to a daughter. They named her Aurora.

To honor the baby princess, the king held a great feast. Nobles and peasants, knights and their ladies—everyone flocked joyfully to the castle.



King Stefan welcomed his good friend King Hubert to the feast. King Hubert had brought his young son, Phillip, with him. The kings agreed that someday Phillip and Aurora would be married.

Among the guests were three good fairies, Flora, Fauna, and Merryweather. Each wished to bless the infant with a gift.

Waving her wand, Flora chanted, "My gift shall be the gift of Beauty."

"And mine," said Fauna, "shall be the gift of Song."



Merryweather was next. But before she could speak, the castle doors flew open.

Lightning flashed. Thunder rumbled. A tiny flame appeared and grew quickly into the form of the evil fairy Maleficent. Her pet raven was perched on her shoulder.





Maleficent was furious, for she hadn't been invited to the feast. "I, too, shall bestow a gift on the child," she said with a sneer. "She shall indeed grow in grace and beauty. But before the sun sets on her sixteenth birthday, she shall prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel . . . and die!"

With a cruel laugh, Maleficent vanished. Everyone in the room was grief-stricken.



But Merryweather still had a gift to give, and she tried to undo Maleficent's curse. She said to the baby:

"If through this wicked witch's trick
A spindle should your finger prick,
Not in death, but just in sleep
The fateful prophecy you'll keep,
And from this slumber you shall wake
When true love's kiss the spell shall break."

King Stefan ordered that every spinning wheel in the land be burned.

But he still feared the evil fairy's curse, so the good fairies hatched a plan. They would take Aurora to live with them deep in the woods, safe from Maleficent.





The king and queen agreed. They watched with heavy hearts as the fairies hurried from the castle, carrying the baby princess.



To guard their secret, the fairies disguised themselves as peasant women and changed Aurora's name to Briar Rose. The years passed quietly, and Briar Rose grew into a beautiful young woman.

At last the princess reached her sixteenth birthday. Planning a surprise, the fairies sent her out to pick berries. Fauna baked a cake for her, while Flora and Merryweather sewed her a new gown.





In a mossy glen, Briar Rose danced and sang with her friends, the birds and animals. She told them of her beautiful dream about meeting a tall, handsome stranger and falling in love.



A handsome young man came riding by. When he heard Briar Rose singing, he jumped from his horse and hid in the bushes to watch her. Then he reached out to take her hand.

Briar Rose was startled. "I didn't mean to frighten you," the man said, "but I feel like we've met before."

Briar Rose was very happy. She and her admirer gazed into each other's eyes. The young man didn't know she was Princess Aurora. And she didn't know he was Prince Phillip, to whom she had been promised in marriage many years before.



Back at the cottage, the fairies gave Briar Rose her birthday surprises. Then Briar Rose told them that she had fallen in love.

"Impossible!" they cried. They told her the truth at last—she was a princess betrothed at birth to a prince. Now it was time for her to return home. So poor Aurora was led away, longing for her handsome stranger.





Maleficent's raven, perched on the chimney of the cottage, had heard everything. It flew off to warn Maleficent that the princess was finally returning.

Maleficent sped to the castle. There, using her evil powers, she lured Aurora to a high tower. In the tiny room, a spinning wheel suddenly appeared.

"Touch the spindle!" hissed Maleficent. "Touch it, I say!"



The three good fairies rushed to the rescue, but they were too late. Aurora had touched the sharp spindle and instantly fallen into a deep sleep. Maleficent's cruel curse had come true. With a harsh laugh, the evil fairy vanished.

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The fairies wept. "Poor King Stefan and the queen," said Fauna.

"They'll be heartbroken when they find out," said Merryweather.

"They're not going to," said Flora. "We'll put them all to sleep until the princess awakens." So the three fairies flew back and forth, casting a dreamlike spell over everyone in the castle.



Meanwhile, Maleficent had captured Phillip and chained him up in her dungeon.

But the good fairies had other plans for him. Using their magic, they broke the chains. They armed the prince with the Shield of Virtue and the Sword of Truth. Then they sent him racing to the castle to awaken the princess.



When the evil fairy saw Phillip escaping, she hurled heavy boulders at him. But the brave prince rode on.

When Phillip reached Aurora's castle, Maleficent caused a forest of thorns to grow all around it. Phillip hacked the thorns aside with his powerful sword.





In a rage, the evil fairy soared to the top of the highest tower. There she changed into a monstrous dragon. "Now you shall deal with me, O Prince!" she shrieked.

Maleficent breathed huge waves of flame. Phillip ducked behind his strong shield.



Thunder cracked! Flames roared around him! The prince fought bravely. Guided by the good fairies, he flung his sword straight as an arrow. It buried itself deep in the dragon's evil heart, and the beast fell to its death. Maleficent was no more.

Phillip raced to the tower where his love lay sleeping. Gently he kissed her. Aurora's eyes slowly opened.

Now everyone was awake. The king and queen were overjoyed to see their daughter again, and wedding plans were soon made.

The good fairies were blissful, too. It had all ended the way it should—happily ever after.



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